

Personnel

Education and Training
ProgramsEducational Research
Opportunity Program**POLICY:**

- .01 The Educational Research Opportunity Program (EROP) provides selected Laboratory employees who are enrolled in a Ph.D. program the opportunity to pursue their dissertation research at the Laboratory on an unburdened basis when the thesis research advances programmatic efforts. ✕

ELIGIBILITY:

- .02 The candidate must fulfill the following requirements:
- ✕ Have been an exempt full-time employee at the Laboratory for at least 2 continuous years.
 - Have met the entrance requirements for the university at which the Ph.D. degree is to be earned.
 - Have identified a Laboratory organization willing to sponsor the dissertation research as part of or an extension of a Laboratory technical project.
 - Have a prospective faculty advisor and a committee on studies. If possible, the committee should include at least one Laboratory staff member, preferably from the sponsoring Laboratory organization.
 - Have written a thesis proposal acceptable to the governing academic institution, the faculty advisor, and the Group Leader that outlines the problem and the proposed solution. The thesis proposal must involve a research program that is consistent with Laboratory needs and interests.
 - Have arranged with a Laboratory staff member to supervise the thesis research.

PROGRAM COMPLETION:

- .03 Upon completion of the dissertation work (i.e., after formal acceptance of the dissertation by the committee on studies) or upon withdrawal or disqualification from the Ph.D. program, the participant will no longer be eligible to be in the EROP.

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- DURATION:** .04 EROP appointments are for 1 year. At the request of the sponsoring organization, appointments may be extended for a second and third year, subject to the approvals below. Total time in the program must not exceed 3 years.
- APPROVALS:** .05 The necessary approvals for the program are
- The cognizant Division Director. If the dissertation research is to be done in another group or division, approval of that organization's Division Director is also necessary.
- The Controller in the Business Operations Division (BUS) for final approval, after review and recommendation by the Staffing Group Leader in the Human Resources Division (HR).
- PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**
- Procedure** .06 The candidate must submit to the Division Director, through the Group Leader, a memorandum requesting enrollment in the EROP. If the Division Director approves, the memorandum is forwarded to the Staffing Group in HR.
- Work Schedule** .07 If work time will be reduced while the thesis research is performed, a Personnel Action form (PA) indicating the reduced work schedule should be attached to the transmittal memorandum and forwarded to the Staffing Group.
- Laboratory Assistance** .08 The Laboratory provides facilities for research, for day-to-day supervision, and for periodic coordination with the faculty advisor.
- FSS-16 Review** .09 Before a thesis is released for publication, the Classification Office (FSS-16) must review it for classification, and the Business and Patent Law Office in Laboratory Counsel (BPL/LC) must review it for patentable content.